

Remarks:

Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Claims 1-16 are now in the application. Claims 1 and has been amended. Claims 14-16 have been added.

Support for the subject-matter of newly added claim 14 can be found on page 9, lines 17-19, and page 10, lines 18-19, of the specification.

Support for the subject-matter of newly added claim 15 can be found on page 9, lines 14-16, and page 11, lines 23-26, of the specification.

Support for the subject-matter of newly added claim 16 can be found on page 9, lines 13-21, of the specification (" a first printing machine 1 which ... can selectively be coupled to a second printing machine ..., and which includes ... and all the further subassemblies needed for **a separate operation** from the respective second printing machine" (emphasis added)).

Enclosed with this response are copies of the first page of US patents corresponding to the German references cited in the IDS and one copy of an abstract in the English language for ✓

one of the German references cited in the IDS for which no corresponding US patent could be found.

Furthermore, the Examiner is requested to review U.S. Patent Application 09/688,919. The Applicant of the instant application is also the Applicant for the above-noted application and the Examiner of the instant application is also the Examiner of the above-noted application.

In item 3 on page 2 of the above-identified Office action, claims 1 and 2 have been rejected as being obvious over *Giori et al.* (US 6,101,939) in view of *Mueller et al.* (US 5,802,973) under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

In item 4 on page 3 of the Office action, claims 3-11 have been rejected as being obvious over *Giori et al.* in view of *Mueller et al.* and further in view of *Drapatsky et al.* (US 5,103,733) under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

The rejections have been noted and claims 1 and 12 have been amended to recite "a coupling device for selectively coupling" (additions are underlined) in an effort to even more clearly define the invention of the instant application. Support for the changes is found on page 9, lines 13-15, ("a first printing machine 1 which can selectively be coupled to a second printing machine") and on page 25, lines 14-17, of the

specification ("... a coupling device 114, ... the respective second printing machine 6 to 9, each time it is coupled to the first printing machine 1"). Also some cosmetic changes for readability and clarity have been made in claims 1 and 12.

Before discussing the prior art in detail, it is believed that a brief review of the invention as claimed, would be helpful.

Claim 1 (similarly claim 12) as amended calls for, inter alia:

a first printing machine of satellite construction type having a central first impression cylinder, and at least four printing devices assigned thereto;

a second printing machine having a second impression cylinder; and

a coupling device for **selectively** coupling said first printing machine and said second printing machine to one another for in-line operation thereof, having a feeding device for transferring the sheets to the second impression cylinder, and at least one adjusting device assigned for register correction to said feeding device.

Giori et al. disclose a printing machine with an independent printing group installed permanently upstream of the principal printing group. The Examiner applied the secondary reference *Mueller et al.* for teaching a "sheet register-adjusting device". Neither *Giori et al.* nor *Mueller et al.* disclose or suggest a coupling device for selectively coupling and de-

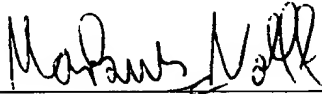
coupling a first printing machine and a second printing machine to one another and for selectively de-coupling a first printing machine and a second printing machine from one another.

It is accordingly believed to be clear that *Giori et al.* in view of *Mueller et al.* do not suggest the features of claims 1 and 12. Claims 1 and 12 are, therefore, believed to be patentable over the art and since claims 2-11 and 14-16 are ultimately dependent on claim 1 and claim 13 is dependent on claim 12, they are believed to be patentable as well.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-16 are solicited.

Please charge any fees which might be due with respect to
Sections 1.16 and 1.17 to the Deposit Account of Lerner and
Greenberg, P.A., No. 12-1099.

Respectfully submitted,



For Applicant

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Version with markings to show changes made:

Page 1, lines 15-22, --

The published German Patent Document DE 197 43 770 A1, which corresponds to U.S. Patent 6,101,944, describes such a printing machine system, which includes a satellite printing-unit group as the first printing machine, an imprinting-unit group as the second printing machine and a connecting element as a coupling device. A point of separation in the coupling runs between a transfer drum belonging to the satellite printing-unit group and a transfer drum belonging to the imprinting-unit group. --

Page 3, lines 5-7, --

Further prior art is described in U.S. Patent 5,660,108, in the published German Patent Documents DE 43 03 797 A1 (which corresponds to U.S. Patent 5,479,856) and DE 195 03 619 A1.--

Claim 1 (amended). A modular printing machine system for printing on sheets, [including] comprising:

a first printing machine of satellite construction type having a central first impression cylinder, and at least four printing devices assigned thereto[,];

a second printing machine having a second impression cylinder[,]; and

a coupling device for selectively coupling [the printing machines] said first printing machine and said second printing machine to one another for in-line operation thereof, [comprising] having a feeding device for transferring the sheets to the second impression cylinder, and at least one adjusting device assigned for register correction to said feeding device.

Claim 12 (amended). A modular printing machine system for printing on sheets, [including] comprising:

a first printing machine having a sheet feeder and being of satellite construction type with a central first impression cylinder and at least four printing devices assigned thereto[,];

a second printing machine having a sheet delivery and a second impression cylinder, said second impression cylinder being of a different size than said first impression cylinder; and

a coupling device for selectively coupling [the printing machines] said first printing machine and said second printing machine to one another for in-line operation thereof[, comprising a second impression cylinder in said second

printing machine, the first impression cylinder of the first printing machine, and said second impression cylinder of the second printing machine being of different sizes].